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Block grants received from the Government of India.

* 44 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) what amounts have been received from the Government of India as 'block grants' till now;

(b) whether any conditions are attached to these grants; and

(c) how they have been utilized?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" (a) 1945–46 *and* 1946–47.—'Advance grants' amounting to Rs. 230 lakhs were given by the Central Government to cover the entire unproductive expenditure incurred by this Government during 1945–46 and 1946–47, on certain post-war development schemes (excluding grow more food schemes and schemes for the resettlement and further education of ex-servicemen and training abroad of students, medical personnel and nutrition workers for which separate grants amounting to about 50 per cent of the cost were admissible). One of the conditions attached to the payment of advance grants was, that the schemes concerned should ordinarily have received the prior approval of the Government of India as 'interim' schemes, i.e., schemes that might be taken up for execution before 1st April 1947, with the special object of counteracting deflation and unemployment. These advance grants will be counted against the total 'block' grant to be made to Provinces by the Central Government during the first quinquennium of the post-war period (1947–48 to 1951–52).

1947–48.—A provision of Rs. 625 lakhs has been made by the Central Government as 'block' grant to this Province in 1947–48 to cover expenditure on unproductive post-war development schemes, Grow More Food scheme and schemes for the further education of ex-servicemen and training abroad of students, medical personnel and nutrition workers.

" (b) Yes: The conditions attached to the grant are broadly—

(1) that the schemes under each head form part of a policy or plan approved generally by the Government of India;

(2) that information should be supplied by the Provincial Government as required by the Government of India regarding the details of schemes;

(3) that facilities should be given to the representatives of the Government of India to keep in touch with development and the progress of schemes, should they so desire;

(4) that an annual report of the progress made in the execution of the schemes should be made available to the Government of India;

(5) that major variations in schemes (e.g., changes in policy, alteration in the nature of the scheme or any considerable

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variation in the extent of application of the scheme and consequently in the cost of the scheme) should be notified in advance to the Government of India;

(6) that in special cases the Government of India may attach specific conditions to individual schemes in agreement with the Provinces concerned;

(7) that the financial resources of the Provinces are adequately exploited and safeguarded and that in important matters of all-India policy the Province should not do anything to impede development on the lines approved by the Government of India with the concurrence of the majority of Provinces; and

(8) that if it is found that the conditions referred to above are not observed in any important particular, the Government of India would reserve the right to make such reductions in the grant as they may consider justifiable in the circumstances.

" (*c*) The advance grant of Rs. 230 lakhs received for post-war 'interim' schemes has been utilized to recoup in full the expenditure on those schemes incurred till 31st March 1947.

The 'block' grant of Rs. 6·25 crores is likely to fall short of the expenditure in 1947–48 on unproductive post-war development schemes and grow more food schemes, which is estimated roughly at Rs. 10½ crores. The Government of India may increase the block grant if the excess expenditure is caused by rapid progress in the execution of grow more food schemes. Any such increase in the 'block' grant allowed in 1947–48 will be adjusted against the 'block' grants for the subsequent years in the first quinquennium. Any expenditure in 1947–48 uncovered by grants from the Central Government will be met from Provincial Revenues. Details of the provision made for post-war development schemes in 1947–48 under the respective heads of account are given in Appendix I to the Demands for Grants and Detailed Estimates for 1947–48."

Sri R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" From the answer, it is not clear whether the Government incur expenditure in advance and afterwards recoup from the Government of India if the schemes had already been approved by them? "

The Hon. Sri B. GOPALA REDDI :—" The present year starts from April 1947. There were schemes on which the Government incurred expenditure previously, and towards those schemes the Government of India gave Rs. 230 lakhs."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB Bahadur :—" On a point of order, Sir. Can the answer to a starred question be placed on the table of the House? "

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" There was a demand that when the answer was too long, it should be placed on the table of the House."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" It is difficult to put at once supplementary questions if the answer is placed on the table of the House."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" In such a case, the answer may be placed on the table one day previously."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" If the House so desires, supplementary questions may be put to-morrow."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao may put supplementary questions to-morrow."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" We are really obliged to the Government for placing the answers on the table, because those of us who come early have got time to go through them and prepare supplementary questions. I think it was our request also to Government that in case the answers were long, they might be cyclostyled or printed and placed on the Table. I am not sure whether the rules permit the putting of supplementary questions the next day. I do not propose to ask supplementary questions on the question relating to block grants. As regards the other questions, answers to which are placed on the table, I request the Government to give us permission to put supplementary questions the next day."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The same practice is followed in the Assembly."

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO :—" When a member wants any particular question to be raised the next day, he gives fresh notice to the Speaker, or else we will not be able to know whether he will be asking questions or not."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Fresh notice should be given to enable us to answer."

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" Rule 33 says : Any member may put a supplementary question for the purpose of further elucidating any matter of fact regarding which an answer has been given to a starred question. Supplementary questions might be put the next day if the answers are placed on the table; the rule does not say that they should be put immediately."

THE HON. SRI M. BAKTHAVATSALAM :—" I would like to know whether we should not have notice that supplementary questions are going to be put the next day on a question which has been answered to-day, so that we may come prepared."

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" No notice is given before putting supplementary questions."

THE HON. SRI M. BAKTHAVATSALAM :—" If it is for the next day? "

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THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO :—" Unless we know that supplementary questions are going to be put, how are we to bring the file, Sir? "

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" When the answers are placed on the table, it is better the Ministers bring the concerned files the next day."

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :—" May I submit that in the other House many answers are placed on the table. Only such questions on which members desire to put supplementary questions the next day are taken up the next day. All other questions, in which they do not express any such wish, are not taken up the next day. Otherwise, it will be a cumbersome procedure and lead to difficulties."

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" We have to follow the rules and at the same time facilitate the convenience of Members. Rule 24 of the Rules for the Madras Legislative Council says that any member who desires an oral answer to his question may distinguish it by an
11-15 a.m. asterisk. Such a question is called a starred question. It will not be in order not to answer a starred question orally, but when the answer is expected to be very long, for the convenience of Members it is put down in writing on the table of the House. It should not, however, take away the right of hon. Members to put supplementary questions. But if the members think that they have no time to study the written answer placed on the table of the House just at question time and put supplementary questions on it, I think it is better that they put supplementary questions the next day. So I rule that in every case where the answer is laid on the table of the House and no oral answer is given by the Minister, supplementary questions may be put the next day."

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" I wish to point out, Mr. Chairman, that when such answers are placed on the table of the House, and we do not express our desire that the questions should be taken up for supplementary questions the next day, then the Ministers will not know that they would come up for the next day and would not come prepared with answers for supplementary questions. So in fairness to the Government, I suggest that when such answers are laid on the table of the House, members should express their intention to the Chair that they want to put supplementary questions the next day, in which case I hope, the Government would be agreeable."

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" In that case, the members must communicate to the Minister concerned in the course of the day of their intention to put supplementary questions the next day."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" What we want is that we should know beforehand that the particular question to which written answer is laid on the table, comes off for supplementary questions the next day, so that we could come prepared with the answers again. That is what I meant by

notice. If hon. Members express their wish to put supplementary questions the next day to the Chair in the course of the day, then it will be all right, Sir."

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" So you suggest that notice should be given by the member in the course of the day? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" What I meant by notice is this, Sir. If a member says that the answer supplied is long and that he is going to put supplementary questions tomorrow, then that will be enough notice for us, to come prepared with the answer the next day."

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Sir, what I submit is that it is not as if the member who put the original question alone should have the right to put supplementary questions. Every member of the House should have that right, and so I submit that any member can say that he wants to put supplementary questions the next day."

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" Would it be convenient to the Hon. Ministers if, in the course of the day the members after reading the answers laid on the table, communicate to the Hon. Minister concerned that they would like to put supplementary questions the next day? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The request must be made to the President, Sir, so that the President may communicate it to the members and Ministers to get themselves prepared for supplementary questions the next day."

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" So, I suggest that members must study the answers placed on the table and then communicate to the President, if so they desire, that they would like to put supplementary questions the next day, so that the questions might be taken up for supplementaries the next day."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Sir, I must say that if the answer is laid on the table and if I do not study it or have the necessary time to do so, and put supplementary question, then I lose my right. If every member wants to get up and request the Chair that every answer laid on the table, should be brought up the next day for supplementary question, that I should say, is not fair to the Government. In fact, we are thankful to the Government for placing written answers on the table, for they are not bound to supply such answers at all, for starred questions."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" I should like to know, Sir, why they should not be placed on the table a day in advance? These printed questions are circulated to us one or two days previously. In fact I got these questions day-before-yesterday. Then, why should we not have the answers also along with them, so that there might be no difficulty for members to put supplementary questions? Suppose it is the last day of a session,

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then how could we give notice to bring up a question the next day? It would take some three months for supplementary questions to be put, if it were to be taken up the next day."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The whole idea of starred questions is to elicit answers on the floor of the House. The mere fact that a question is starred indicates that supplementary answers are expected of the Minister in charge and that supplementary questions might *ipso facto* follow. Where the answer given to the original question is satisfactory, no further questions are asked. But where there is room for more information, the member is entitled to ask supplementary questions and the simplest procedure for him is to say, that he would put supplementary questions the next day. I cannot, therefore, endorse the suggestion of Mr. Farookhi Sahib that the answers should also be circulated along with the questions in advance."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Then, Sir, there will be no difference between starred and unstarred questions, if the answers are simply placed on the table of the House. That is the procedure that is adopted with regard to unstarred questions. The difference between a starred and an unstarred question is that the member will be allowed to put supplementary questions on the floor of the House on a starred question, while in the case of an unstarred question, he will have no such right. If a member is prevented or disabled to put supplementary questions on a starred question on account of the procedure that is suggested by the Government now, then there will be no difference between starred and unstarred questions at all, and the starred questions will have to be put in the same category as unstarred questions."

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" In order to give effect to the wishes of hon. Members, I think that the rules will have to be observed. The rule clearly says that starred questions should be answered orally and if printed or cyclostyled answers are supplied, it is due to the requests of hon. Members."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Sir, it is only for the convenience of the House that answers are printed. We know that the rule is that the answers should be given orally. We are always prepared to give oral answers provided members are satisfied. It is because a request was made by some hon. Members that long answers containing figures might be printed and supplied to them so that they might peruse the answers beforehand, that we did it, Sir."

SRI K. NATARAJAN :—" May I, therefore, suggest, Sir, that whether the answers are long or short, they should be read in the House and if members want to put supplementary questions they might do so afterwards? "

SRI M. NARAYANA MENON :—" Sir, suppose a member expresses his desire to-day that he wants to put supplementary

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questions on an answer given to-day, then may I know whether no other member is entitled to put supplementary questions the next day? Perhaps in the course of answers to supplementary questions, I may desire to put another supplementary question, will I be allowed?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Yes, Sir."

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" So far as starred questions are concerned, the correct position is this. Rule 24 says: 'Any member who desires an oral answer to his question may distinguish it by an asterisk. Such a question is called a starred question.' Therefore it is clear that members desire oral answers; but for the convenience of members, written answers are given for certain questions in the place of oral answers. Then rule 33 says: 'Any member may put a supplementary question for the purpose of further elucidating any matter of fact regarding which an answer has been given to a starred question.' Now it is the right of a member to say 'Do not give a written answer for a question which is marked with an asterisk.' But if the member is either not satisfied with the written answer or if he wants to elicit further information, then it follows that he has the right to put supplementary questions. So, to meet convenience of members, and without infringing the rules, I suggest that written answers may be given in cases where the answers are too long so that an opportunity might be given to members to put supplementary questions. But rule 33 does not say specifically that supplementary questions should be put immediately; so I suggest that supplementary questions might be put later, after giving notice to the Ministers concerned that supplementary questions would be put the next day."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Then there is a difficulty in it, Sir. If they give notice to bring up a question the next day for supplementary questions during the course of the day, it has got to be incorporated in the proceedings for the next day. Suppose we sit from day to day, it may not be possible for the Legislature always to put it in the Agenda for the next day and follow all the procedure laid down in the rules. If members would simply signify their intention that they want that the particular question might be taken up the next day for supplementary questions, then it will be taken for granted that the question is going to come up for the next day and the whole trouble of printing it in the Agenda for the next day might be saved. That is all I want to suggest, Sir."

K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Sir, the purpose of a starred question is to elicit further information by supplementary questions, and that purpose would be defeated if the written answer is placed on the table, because it will take some time for members to peruse the answer and then formulate supplementary questions. Secondly, when a particular question is marked as 'starred', we should see that the control with regard to that question by the particular member who has put it ceases, and that the question comes into the possession of the whole

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House. It should not be left to the discretion of the particular member to say that he is satisfied with the written answer and that no supplementary question is called for. That would mean converting the starred question into an unstarred question. Thus an important right of the House is being taken away. I would, therefore, suggest that in cases where the answer is long, any member of the House may request the Hon. Minister to supply printed answers and he should have the right to put supplementary question on some other day. I think that would satisfy the House."

11-30 a.m. SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" I think, Sir, We have already taken more than half an hour over this point. There are so many questions still to be answered ; and if the question hour is over, all these will have to get into the proceedings without any supplementary questions having been put."

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" What I suggest now is this : The answer may be placed on the table and the concerned supplementary questions may be put on the next day, i.e., tomorrow. The permanent President will give a ruling on this matter. Because, I do not think that for every question that is asked, the Hon. Minister concerned has to give an oral answer. The rule only says ' Any member who desires an oral answer to his question may distinguish it by an asterisk. Such a question is called a starred question.' So, the rule itself does not seem to be very explicit in the matter. It may be amended later on ; but to avoid inconvenience, I suggest that any supplementary questions which may be put on these answers may be put tomorrow. The permanent President may be asked to give a ruling in the matter."

Provincial Broadcasting Department.

*45 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the strength of the staff of the Provincial Broadcasting Department is ;

(*b*) whether any service rules have been framed for the personnel employed ;

(*c*) whether the possession of a certificate in Radio Engineering is one of the qualifications prescribed ;

(*d*) whether in the case of graduates in Physics the possession of a certificate in Radio Engineering is not insisted upon ;

(*e*) what the old and new scales of salaries are ;

(*f*) whether the starting salary in the case of Physics graduates is higher even though they do not possess the certificate in Radio Engineering ; and

(*g*) whether Radio Engineering forms part of the syllabus for Physics for the B.A. Degree examination?